

**FURTHER RAMAPO DELAY.****CONSTITUTIONALITY OF MORGAN BILL TO BE INQUIRED INTO.****Assembly Cities Committee Appoints a Sub-Committee for the Purpose in Spite of Opposition—The Democratic Caucus Makes Reproaches—Repeal a Party Measure.**

**ALBANY**, Feb. 19.—After over an hour's discussion the Assembly Cities Committee, in executive session to-night, voted to appoint a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Kehoe and O'Malley (Rep.) and Fitzgerald (Dem.), to examine into the merits of the Morgan bill repealing the act of 1895 giving the Ramapo Water Company special rights and extraordinary privileges. The motion to appoint a sub-committee was made by Mr. H. E. Lewis (Rep., Monroe), Messrs. Davis and Seymour (Rep., N. Y.) and Messrs. McKeown (Dem., Rock), Fitzgerald (Dem., N. Y.) and Bradley (Dem.) from Erie opposed this disposition of the bill and Messrs. Davis and Seymour used their utmost efforts to have the bill referred to the Assembly, even if only for consideration. They voted against naming this sub-committee, as did also the Democrats, and when Mr. Kehoe named Mr. Fitzgerald as a member of the sub-committee he was reluctant to serve.

Mr. Davis was so opposed to the appointment of the sub-committee that when he was named by Chairman Kehoe as a member he refused to serve and could not be persuaded to change his position.

No motion to report the bill favorable was made. Mr. Cutler (Rep., Kings) was the only absentee. The members of the committee who voted to appoint a sub-committee were Messrs. Kehoe, Livingston, H. E. Lewis, Monroe, DeGraw, Kings, Burnett, Ontario, Ross, Albany, Hammond, Utica, O'Malley, Erie, and Republicans.

This is the first time that the committee has officially taken any action in executive session on the Ramapo Repeal bill since the hearing four weeks ago. Mr. Kehoe says that the object of the sub-committee is to perfect the bill and to look into its constitutionality. He says there are many questions to be considered in connection with the measure. The first is to see how far the Morgan bill goes, being essential to know whether if this bill passes it will take away the Ramapo company's rights and charter or simple special rights under the special act of 1895. He knew that the introducer of the bill did not intend to repeal the Ramapo company's charter granted in 1887 and intended under the law of 1895, and before the bill could be reported it was wise to look into the matter.

The committee, also, to look into the matter of securing to the Ramapo company any compensation for its options or water rights or reimburse the company for the money it has expended in dredging and planing? Mr. Kehoe was asked.

He answered: Well, possibly, of course, everything will be thoroughly investigated before anything is definitely done.

The Republicans from the borough of Manhattan are not inclined to accept cheerfully this delay in the matter, but other members, and especially up-state members, think that it is best that the constitutionality of the bill should be looked into and the bill be perfected if it is to be passed. The opinion of a number of members is that the Ramapo company is entitled to some consideration for the expense it has incurred.

The Democrats have outflanked the Republicans in making the Repeal bill a party measure. In caucus this morning they decided to make it a party measure and support Mr. Morgan in the event of his moving to dis-charge the Cities Committee from further consideration of the bill. About thirty minority members attended the caucus, which was a cut and dried affair. One New York member said: "We need this Ramapo matter for campaign material next fall, and it will help us in our municipal election."

Minority Leader Friske was not present at the caucus.

Mr. Morgan expressed himself satisfied with the way things were moving in regard to this bill and said that he will not move to discharge the committee, even if the bill is not reported this week. He thinks the legal questions connected with the bill should be looked into.

**THE STATE LEGISLATURE.****Bills to Liberalize Corporation Laws Considered—Appropriation Bill Advanced.**

**ALBANY**, Feb. 19.—Many Republican Senators desire to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the provisions of the two bills introduced by Senator Bracken amending the stock and general corporation laws. These bills seek to carry out Gov. Odell's recommendations that the corporation laws of this State be liberalized to meet the competition of like laws in other States. These two bills were considered for some time in the Committee of the Whole in the Senate to-day and their provisions defended by Senators Elsworth and Bracken against the attacks of Senators Elshong and White. It was thought that some of the provisions were too liberal and not in the interests of the investor. The bills were finally laid aside in order to afford an opportunity later for fuller discussion.

When Senator Bracken's bill providing for a bipartisan Board of Elections in New York city was reached in the Committee of the Whole in the Senate, Mr. Raines endeavored to have incorporated therein an amendment providing that copies of reports of policemen on violations of the registration or election laws shall be furnished to Supt. McCullagh. On account of the discussion which ensued the bill was not advanced, as the Republican and Democratic Senators from New York seem to think that Senator Raines' amendment injected politics into the bill and would jeopardize the possible appointment of a strict nonpartisan Board of Elections on the part of the Mayor. The bill was amended to provide that an election district with more than 600 voters may be divided into two or three districts, and that the State senator from one of these districts which has 1,500 voters. The Senate passed Senator Brown's bill establishing a third elected State, Forest, Fish and Game Commission, and the State Forest Preserve Board.

The annual Appropriation bill was advanced to a third reading in the Assembly to-day. Since its introduction early in January the Ways and Means Committee has amended it generally in order to meet the changes in the bill proposed by the single-headed State commission. The amount carried by the Appropriation bill is changed to a slight extent by reason of those changes, and the bill is now reported in the first place with the expectation that the referendum bills will receive favorable consideration.

Mr. Bracken, authorizing and directing the New York City Comptroller to pay the claims of the members of the old board of assessors of the former city of Brooklyn for services rendered after the adoption of the New York Charter went into effect has passed the Assembly.

**No Dance Hall Where Liquor Is Sold.**

**ALBANY**, Feb. 19.—The Assembly Cities Committee will report favorably tomorrow the Appropriation bill authorizing a loan for the construction of a street in the City of New York. The bill will be amended in these despatches so as to affect only that area people and make all persons who practice such an occupation ineligible for exemption before the State Board of Regents receives their application for a license for the sick and their knowledge of disease by requiring them to take a test. Hon. T. C. Nichols, chairman of the committee, finds that the bill has stirred up more dissension in the medical and healing field than any other kind of legislation ever proposed. The fate of the bill when it comes before the House is problematical.

**Tenant House Commission Makes Its Report.**

**ALBANY**, Feb. 19.—Several members of the Tenant House Commission came to the city this afternoon and to-night they submitted to Gov. Odell the first of their recommendations. Their report, which the members of the commission who saw the Governor last night were Robert W. DeForest, Otto M. Eliot and A. D. Turner, all of New York, and E. B. Whitney, and Secretary LaFever.

**Sage Thinks Stocks Are Too High.**

Bassett Sage adheres to his previously expressed opinions that the stock market is too high and that it will go down. He said yesterday all there is to it is that other prices of stocks for the last twenty years have been to low, or present prices are too high.

**Long Island City Map Voted Down Again.**

The Aldermen voted down again yesterday the Long Island City map, which the Tammany leader, Alderman Metcalf, keeps trying to put through.

**No Better Home Papers Published.**

**THE SUN** and **EVERYDAY SUN** English-language daily papers of fashion and society notes, and other matters culturing and refining in their influence, and of interest to all women.—*Ad.*

**THE MODIFIED TAX BILLS.****THREE OF THE FIVE WILL BE TUTORIALLY REPORTED TO-DAY.****Savings Banks to Pay 1 Per Cent. on Surplus at Par. Trust Companies Relieved of One-Half of Personality Tax. Insurance Companies Faced 1 Per Cent. on Gross Premiums.**

**ALBANY**, Feb. 19.—Three of the five tax bills recommended by Gov. Odell to secure additional state revenues from trust companies will be reported favorably to-morrow by the Senate Committee on Taxation and Reconstruction. Those are the bills taxing savings banks, trust and insurance companies. The committee expected each bill that taxing savings banks was changed so as to impose a tax of 1 per cent. upon the net amount of market value of securities in which the surplus of these companies is invested. This will raise \$100,000, about one-half of what it was expected would be raised when the bill was originally drafted.

The only change made by the committee in the bill taxing trust companies upon their capital stock surplus and undivided profits was to exempt them from taxation for local purposes upon their personality. The companies now pay annual taxes aggregating ten thousand dollars, and the new bill will reduce this amount about one-half. This bill will bring in an annual state revenue of \$100,000. There was a decided sentiment in favor of taxing the gross earnings of trust companies in order to relieve the smaller companies from what it was said would be an insuperable tax, as compared with the big corporations. These companies would not consent to any reasonable tax, say 1 or 2 per cent., but rather insisted on a tax of 10 per cent. on their gross earnings, which would result in a loss of \$100,000 to the state. The committee decided not to change his plan and insisted upon the passage of the bill as originally drafted, with the exception of the exemption.

The bill taxing insurance companies embraces a new scheme. It imposes a tax of 1 per cent. on the gross amount of the premiums paid by all domestic life, fire, marine, guaranteed and other insurance corporations and associations, except by companies of other States, except that of fire and marine insurance companies. These companies are exempt from the reciprocal laws of all States regarding doing business therein.

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